

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/642,417

Examiner

Madeleine AV Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MIGUEL, ANTONI GIL

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on February 17, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to amendment filed on February 17, 2005.

Applicant amends claims 1, 22.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 11-15, filed on February 17, 2005, with respect to claims 1, 7, 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-3, 7-10, 12-23 has been withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Peter Lippman on May 2, 2005.

Please cancel claims 27-32.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-26 are allowed.
4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

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a. Claims 1-21 are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches an apparatus or method for incremental printing of an image comprising means for or step of adding further colorant quanta to selected pixels already receiving colorant as part of the less-than-full coverage within the region whereby, within the region, the amount of colorant printed in some pixels is zero, in others is a first non-zero number of colorant quanta, and in still others is a second non-zero number of colorant quanta, wherein the second non-zero number is different from the first non-zero number.

b. Claims 22-26 are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches a method of adding colorant in a region to which color is already addressed, in incremental printing of an image comprising the step of eliminating or reducing white-line or light-line banding in a region of the image wherein the eliminating or reducing step comprising the steps of automatically printing the region of the image with an added-colorant pixels included at a ratio of number of added-colorant pixels to total number of addressed pixels.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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a. Cheung et al (US Patent No. 6,363,172) discloses half toning algorithms to produce pleasing, random, homogeneously distributed patterns of dots where the number of dots of each colorant are combined to form an output dot level number of dots that is caused to be substantially distributed.

b. Smith (US Patent No. 5,778,160) discloses a printing method having region dependent image processing for printing a color image.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeleine AV Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-7466. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on 571 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Madeleine AV Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

May 2, 2005